REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

None of the claims have been amended. Claims 1, 6-8, and 12-15 remain pending in this application.

Foreign priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge applicant's claim to foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the corresponding foreign priority document.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,914,754 to Kori et al. ("Kori"). Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,323,235 to Tonomura et al. (hereafter "Tonomura"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a picture convert apparatus including a first element which inputs a first picture data and produces a second picture data consisting of a first black area, a second black area and an area consisting of a reduced number of lines of the first picture, where the area consisting of the reduced number of lines is sandwiched between the first black area and said second black area. The apparatus of claim 1 also includes a second element which enlarges the second picture data to provide an enlarged picture, and a third element which displays the enlarged picture. Neither Kori nor Tononmura disclose or suggest these features where second picture data is produced from first picture data to have an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between black areas, and then the second picture data is enlarged and displayed on a display.

Kori discloses an NTSC 4:3 television receiving a wide screen 16:9 signal for a wide screen video picture and displaying the wide-screen video picture on the NTSC 4:3 television such that upper and lower portions of the video picture are blank (See Figures 16a-16c, col. 1, lines 32-40). Kori does not disclose, however, the two steps of first producing second picture data from first picture data to have an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between black areas, and then enlarging the second picture data and displaying the enlarged data on a display. While Kori discloses displaying a video picture with upper and lower blank portions, Kori does not disclose how this picture data that is displayed is derived. As mentioned in the present specification, it is conventional to display picture data with an aspect ratio of 16:9 on a display with an aspect ratio of 4:3, either by a pan scanning system or a letter box system (see specification, page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 13, and Figure 8). While Kori does not disclose what technique is used for displaying the 16:9 picture data on the 4:3 television display for Figures 16a-16c, it is entirely possible that Kori may use one of these conventional techniques.

In contrast to the Kori disclosure or the conventional techniques disclosed in the present specification on page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 13, the invention as recited in claim 1 contemplates a two step technique where second picture data is produced from first picture data to have an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between black areas, and then the second picture data is enlarged and the enlarged data is displayed on a display.

Moreover, this two step technique provides data processing advantages not realized by either Kori or the conventional techniques. Specifically, this technique reduces the load on the CPU in processing (see present specification, page 3, lines 10-14, page 11, lines 8-17, for example). Such a reduction on the load in the CPU is not contemplated by Kori. When the present invention of claim 1 is considered as a whole, including its attendant advantages, claim 1 is clearly patentable over Kori.

The modification of the Kori technique of processing and displaying picture data to arrive at the claimed invention of claim 1 is clearly hindsight reconstruction of applicants invention using the present application as a guide. Kori does not disclose the details of how the picture data is processed to display a 16:9 picture on a 4:3 display in the text describing

Figures 16a-16c. One can arrive at the present invention of claim 1 from Kori only by using improper hindsight reconstruction.

Tonomura does not cure the deficiencies of Kori. Tonomura was cited for allegedly teaching an aspect ratio converting portion including a compression controller which determines the compression ratio. Tonomura, however, like Kori, fails to disclose that second picture data is produced from first picture data to have an area with a reduced number of lines sandwiched between black areas, and then the second picture data is enlarged and displayed on a display. Thus, even if Tonomura and Kori were combined, the combination would not meet the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 8 and 15 are likewise patentable over Tonomura and Kori. Claim 8 is directed to a picture convert apparatus, and includes a second element which reduces the line number of a picture data to a predetermined line number, a fourth element which forms a first black area, the reduced numbers of lines and a second black area to a frame, a fifth element which enlarges said frame, and a sixth element which displays said enlarged frame. Claim 15 is directed to a method for converting a first picture data to a second picture data, and comprises reducing the line number of the first picture data to a predetermined line number, forming a first black area, the reduced numbers of lines and a second black area to a frame, enlarging the frame, and displaying the enlarged frame on a display. Thus, claims 8 and 15 are patentable over Tonomura and Kori for at least the same reasons as claim 1, discussed above.

For at least the above reasons, applicant submits that claims 1, 8 and 15 are patentable over Kori and Tonomura. Claims 6, 7, and 12-14 depend from one of claims 1 and 8 and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for patentable features recited therein. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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